

# UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



For the Attention of:-  
Members of UTC

7.3.2018

Dear Colleagues

## **Construct, Conduct and Modus Operandi of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Committee**

I write, as instructed by the Executive Committee of the UNF and a number of voluntary sector organisations in the town, to support the concerns expressed in the letters to the council from the Beeches Residents' Association and the Limes, Firs & Spurs Residents' Association about the future construct, conduct and modus operandi of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

As a Neighbourhood Planning Champion now supporting a wide range of initiatives around the country, I am well aware of the consequences of a parish council failing to ensure that its N Plan is genuinely community led. Uppingham developed an outstanding national reputation, not only for the content and construct of first plan, but particularly for the exemplary, participative manner in which it was created. It is no surprise, therefore, that Uppingham is now to contribute to a major city planning project in the midlands and a joint small parish community initiative hoping to attract European and Charity Commission support. Locality also continues to support Uppingham with funding to share best practice on community engagement with a wide range of parishes around the UK. Many eyes are now on our wonderful town. Best practice is expected.

The new draft National Planning Policy Framework published this week puts great emphasis on the need for a two year 'currency' of supporting data and the important role that could be played by N Planning in the future. Remembering that any successful plan must demonstrate effective community engagement and decision making in coming to its recommendations and conclusions, the Forum urges UTC to listen carefully to its community organisations and the voice of civil society. Collaboration will bring success and build a stronger, more sustainable town. Division will result in the loss of supporting volunteers and a negative voice which will have the right to be heard by the LPA, the External Examiner, Planning Inspectors and government agencies.

The council is, therefore, urged to continue its past best practice and pursue the path of collaboration in the interests of community cohesion. There are important messages in the two resident group letters that should be heard.

Regards

***Ron Simpson***

Ron Simpson BEM

Coordinator – Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum

Neighbourhood Planning Champion

**Copy to: MHCLG; NCVO; NALC; LRALC; Locality; N Plan Committee**

**Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum - The Voice of Civil Society in Uppingham**  
**A Member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)**

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